GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Translation Technology (A703006)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	independent work lecture group work seminar
B (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Denturck, Kathelijne	LW22	staff member
Macken, Lieve	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Lefever, Els	LW22	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Language Technology)	4	B
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Language Technology)	4	B
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, Turkish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Language Technology)	4	B
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	3	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	3	A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	4	B
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages	4	A, B
Elective Set Linguistics	3	A
Elective Set Southeast-European Language	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Translation technology, computer-aided translation, machine translation, terminology extraction, corpus query tools

Position of the course

The goal of this introductory course is twofold. On the one hand it provides insights into the basic underlying principles that are used in translation technology (sentence and word alignment, matching, standard formats, machine translation, terminology extraction, etc.). On the other hand, it provides hands-on experience with selected tools.
Translation technology does not only support the translator during translation, it can also support research in translation studies. This course opts for a blended learning approach and combines contact education for the theoretical part and guided e-learning for the practical part. It encourages students to engage in lifelong learning.

Contents

The course consists of a theoretical part and a practical part. The course covers the following topics:
Theoretical part:
- introduction to the main concepts of computer-aided translation
- the functioning of translation memories and word and sentence alignment
- the functioning of machine translation systems
- the functioning and usefulness of term banks, terminology management and terminology extraction tools
- (parallel) corpora and corpus tools
- standard formats for the exchange of term banks and translation memories

Practical part:
- translation memories
- sentence alignment software
- machine translation systems
- terminology extraction
- concordance software + advanced search queries on the Internet

Initial competences

The students have an insight into grammatical structures and have basic computer skills.

Final competences

1 Having basic knowledge and understanding in the field of translation technology [B1.7 assessed]
2 Having knowledge of relevant electronic resources, using them adequately and efficiently, and critically evaluating them [B6.5 assessed]
3 Assessing the usefulness of computer applications in the areas of translating and using them adequately [B.6.6 assessed]
4 Under supervision, formulating a research question on a topic related to applied language studies, critically using appropriate research methods when analysing and answering the research question, and developing a scientifically underpinned reflection on it [assessed]
5 Based on acquired competences, taking joint responsibility and being a team player [assessed]

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Theoretical part: lectures
Practical part: guided self-study, group work, and optional seminars
Trajectory with language technology: students following this trajectory will have to hand in an additional assignment (for 1 course credit).
Recordings of the lectures will be made available

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Inleiding tot de vertaaltechnologie
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : Dutch

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Software

Name: Wordfast Pro, YouAlign, AntConc, SketchEngine, Online MT systeem en generatief AI-systeem (e.g. Mistral Le Chat)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Online Available : Yes

References

- Andrew Rothwell, Joss Moorkens & Maria Fernández-Parra (2023) Translation tools and technologies (2023). Routledge
- Stefan Baumgarten and Michael Tieber (2025) The Routledge Handbook of Translation Technology and Society. Routledge

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via UFORA and during the lectures. Individual and collective feedback during lectures, or via UFORA.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

First session:
- Written exam (theoretical part)
- Participation, skills test and assignment (group work) (practical part)

Second session:
- Idem, group assignment will be converted to individual assignment

Calculation of the examination mark

Theoretical part: 80%
Practical part: 20%
Second session:

- Partial results can be transferred to the second examination period. The part for which the students passed does not need to be re-examined. Students have however the right to use the full second examination opportunity. The last obtained grades are then used to calculate the final mark.

Facilities for Working Students

Exemption from attendance can be granted.
Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time.
Limited possibility of feedback by e-mail, restricted to answering specific questions.